CLAIMS

I claim:

1. An article of manufacture for use in a computer system for creating a string of Unicode characters stored in the memory of the computer system, said article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable storage medium having a computer program embodied in said medium which causes the computer system to execute the method steps comprising:

creating a constant whose data type is not a Unicode data type;

storing a string of non-Unicode characters in the constant which is stored in the memory of the computer;

retrieving a specification of a code page in which the non-Unicode character string is encoded;

translating the non-Unicode character string stored in the constant into a Unicode character string responsive to the specification of the code page; and

storing the Unicode character string in the constant stored in the memory of the computer,

whereby the Unicode character string is created responsive to the entry of the non-Unicode character string without the entry of the Unicode character string.

2. The article of manufacture of claim 1 wherein the non-Unicode character string is a single byte character set (SBCS) string.

3. The article of manufacture of claim 1 wherein the non-Unicode character string is a pure double byte character set (DBCS) string.

4. The article of manufacture of claim 1 wherein the non-Unicode character string is a mixed SBCS and DBCS string.

5. The article of manufacture of claim 1 wherein the translation is performed by the computer according to a scope, the scope specifying a portion of a computer program subject to the translation.

6. The article of manufacture of claim 5 wherein the scope is global, the global scope specifying that the translation applies to the entire computer program.

7. The article of manufacture of claim 5 wherein the scope is local, the local scope specifying that the translation applies the subsequent portion of the computer program.

8. The article of manufacture of claim 5 wherein the scope is constant specific, the constant specific scope specifying that the translation applies only to a specific constant.

9. A method of creating a string of Unicode characters stored in a memory of a computer, said method comprising the steps of:

creating a constant whose data type is not a Unicode data type;

storing a string of non-Unicode characters in the constant which is stored in the memory of the computer;

retrieving a specification of a code page in which the non-Unicode character string is encoded;

translating the non-Unicode character string stored in the constant into a Unicode character string responsive to the specification of the code page; and

storing the Unicode character string in the constant stored in the memory of the computer,

whereby the Unicode character string is created responsive to the entry of the non-Unicode character string without the entry of the Unicode character string.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the non-Unicode character string is a single byte character set (SBCS) string.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein the non-Unicode character string is a pure double byte character set (DBCS) string.

12. The method of claim 9 wherein the non-Unicode character string is a mixed SBCS and DBCS string.

13. The method of claim 9 wherein the translation is performed by the computer according to a scope, the scope specifying a portion of a computer program subject to the translation.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the scope is global, the global scope specifying that the translation applies to the entire computer program.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein the scope is local, the local scope specifying that the translation applies the subsequent portion of the computer program.

16. The method of claim 5 wherein the scope is constant specific, the constant specific scope specifying that the translation applies only to a specific constant.

17. A computer system for creating a string of Unicode characters stored in a memory of the computer system, said computer system comprising:

a constant whose data type is not a Unicode data type;

a string of non-Unicode characters stored in the constant which is stored in the memory of the computer;

a specification of a code page in which the non-Unicode character string is encoded retrievable from the memory of the computer system;

a translator for translating the non-Unicode character string stored in the constant into a Unicode character string responsive to the specification of the code page; and

memory for storing the Unicode character string in the constant stored in the memory of the computer,

whereby the Unicode character string is created responsive to the entry of the non-Unicode character string without the entry of the Unicode character string.

18. The computer system of claim 17 wherein the non-Unicode character string is a single byte character set (SBCS) string.

19. The computer system of claim 17 wherein the non-Unicode character string is a pure double byte character set (DBCS) string.

20. The computer system of claim 17 wherein the non-Unicode character string is a mixed SBCS and DBCS string.

21. The computer system of claim 17 wherein the translation is performed by the computer according to a scope, the scope specifying a portion of a computer program subject to the translation.

22. The computer system of claim 21 wherein the scope is global, the global scope specifying that the translation applies to the entire computer program.

23. The computer system of claim 21 wherein the scope is local, the local scope specifying that the translation applies the subsequent portion of the computer program.

24. The computer system of claim 21 wherein the scope is constant specific, the constant specific scope specifying that the translation applies only to a specific constant.